



Lori Lightfoot
Mayor

Department of Police · City of Chicago
3510 S. Michigan Avenue · Chicago, Illinois 60653

Charlie Beck
Interim Superintendent of Police

July 2, 2020

Via Email:

Matt Chapman
Chicago Reporter
matt@mchap.io

RE: NOTICE OF RESPONSE TO FOIA REQUEST
FOIA FILE NO.: P587118

Dear Matt Chapman:

The Chicago Police Department (CPD) is in receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, received June 18, 2020 for the following:

"A copy of all memos, emails, communications, notes, documents, tickets, messages with details or info that describes shutting down, disabling, or removing the CPD Arrests API, which was previously found at: <https://publicsearch1.chicagopolice.org/api/Arrests/>.

Please restrict your search from May 12 to the date of processing this request.

To help in your search, it should be known that the site was up on June 16th and seems to have been shut down on June 17th.

Keywords that may be useful in your search (but please do not limit the search to these keywords): API, requestinfo, publicsearch1, developer, api key, authentication, "arrest api", "arrests api", "chicago reporter".

As permitted by 5 ILCS 140/3(e), the time was extended in order to conduct a thorough search for these records. Your request was reviewed by the undersigned in collaboration with the Department's Bureau of Technical Services Information Services Division. It was determined that your request is unduly burdensome as currently written and as a result, your request is denied.

It was determined that your request is unduly burdensome as currently written as it is too broad. Section 3(g) of FOIA provides that "requests for all records falling within a category shall be complied with unless compliance with the request would be unduly burdensome for the complying public body and there is no way to narrow the request and the burden on the public body outweighs the public interest in the information." 5 ILCS 140/3(g). Without direction from you as to which specific records you seek, such an endeavor would pose an undue burden on the operations of this department. As the Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Counselor has noted (see 2017 PAC 47756, issued June 20, 2017), Illinois courts

Emergency and TTY: 9-1-1 · Non Emergency and TTY: (within city limits) 3-1-1 · Non Emergency and TTY: (outside city limits) (312) 746-6000

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have held, “[a] request to inspect or copy must reasonably identify a public record[.]” *Chicago Tribune Co. v. Dept. of Financial and Professional Regulation*, 2014 IL App (4th) 130427, par. 33. A FOIA request “reasonably describes records if ‘the agency is able to determine precisely what records are being requested.’” *Kowalczyk v. Dept. of Justice*, 73 F.3d 386, 388 (D.C. Cir. 1996) (quoting *Yeager v. Drug Enforcement Admin.*, 678 F.2d 315, 326 (D.C. Cir. 1982)). Please be advised that CPD does not have any automated mechanism by which to track, query, or limit a search of records for memos, emails, communications, notes, documents, tickets, and messages categorically as your request is seeking. Therefore, this task represents an unduly burdensome action upon this Department.

In addition, your request for emails is unduly burdensome as currently written. In order to effectively run an email search, the Department’s Bureau of Technical Services Information Services Division needs (1) the email address(es) or employee name(s) of the account(s) you wish searched; (2) key words you wish to search for; and (3) the timeframe to be searched.

At this time, your request is unduly burdensome as currently written. It should be emphasized that the Act neither requires nor allows CPD to speculate as to the details of any request; this information can only be provided by the requester. Pursuant to Section 3(g) of FOIA, we would like to extend to you an opportunity to modify your request to make it more manageable. CPD encourages you to review your request to ascertain the specific details to your query. Unless and until a new FOIA request is submitted that specifies and narrows the records you are seeking, CPD will be unable to provide further records. Once this is determined, a new FOIA request can be submitted to CPD, specifying the records you would like CPD to provide.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at the following address:

Chicago Police Department
Attention: Freedom of Information
Office of Legal Affairs, Unit 114
3510 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60653
foia@chicagopolice.org

You have a right of review by the Illinois Attorney General’s Public Access Counselor, who can be contacted at 500 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62706 or by telephone at 877-299-3642. You may also seek judicial review in the Circuit Court of Cook County under 5 ILCS 140/11.

Sincerely,

A. Marlan
Freedom of Information Act Officer
Chicago Police Department
Office of Legal Affairs, Unit 114
3510 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60653